1:Nimuendajú E-5 (1941-1942) 1952
SQ20 Tucuna SQ20

131 Tukuna territory and even far beyond, while the banks of the Putumayo-Içá were
101 held by Aruak tribes—the Mariaté, Yumána, and Pasé. To the west they had for neighbors the Yáhua and the Péba. Today this former Tukuna territory is divided among Peru, Colombia, and Brazil.

As the Indians of all these neighboring tribes (with the exception of the Yáhua) became fewer or finally disappeared, the Tukuna began to spread out along both banks and on the islands of the Solimões, where many of them live today, as well as on the lakes and tributaries of the right bank. Similarly, they have settled near the Paraná, on the Camatía and along the lower Jandiatuba. Some of their settlements are on the lower Içá, but representatives of the tribe have appeared most recently on the Auatí-paraná, at approximately 66° 30′ W. longitude. The region of the lower Javary, where they were encountered in the past century, they have since abandoned, and likewise they have abandoned the Poreté region.

The entire Tukuna country is part of the Amazon basin, and in the whole region
133 there is not—in the Brazilian part, at least—even one elevation that merits the name of *serra*, nor can any stones be found except a few gravel beds in the upper courses of the igarapés. Lakes and lacustrine topography are found only in the marginal region of the Solimões and in the lower courses of the igarapés. The jungle centers are firm ground. At some points this solid ground extends to the banks of the Solimões, where it forms enormous bluffs twenty-five meters high or more, which are very apt to crumble, especially in times of excessive runoff, and this causes the inhabitants great inconvenience.

During the summer the low riverbanks are bordered with mud beaches. In the winter they are covered with water and become lacustrine zones, with lakes and sinks in some places more than a league* in width. Few of the numerous islands offer a place of shelter from the regular floods; most of them are inundated in the winter to the point of being uninhabitable. These islands with their low banks are also subject to the effects of erosion and inundation to a prodigious degree, the topography sometimes being completely altered within a few years.

The climate is hot and humid, and one feels the lack of ventilation in the jungle.
132 Annually in June and July there are sudden very marked cold spells, accompanied by strong winds from the southeast (not the southwest!) and by fine rains which last from one to three days.

The year is divided into a rainy winter and a dry summer. The Solimões floods
133 regularly; beginning to rise in December it reaches its highest point (12 m. above the dry level) in March, April, and May, diminishing gradually in June and July. The months of August, September, October, and November witness the drying up of streams, so that the upper courses of the igarapés become unnavigable. However, there are frequently major departures from this pattern.

137 The virgin Amazonian jungle covers this region throughout. Only at the head-
[134] waters of the Igarapé de São Jeronymo are there elevated spots with sandy soil and low vegetation. The jungle itself is rich in vegetable products, of which only timber and rubber are now being exploited.

136 A few decades ago the region was extremely rich in game, but the rise in price of leather rapidly caused the near extermination of such mammals as the tapir

* The Portuguese league equals 6 kilometers.

[Text continues on page 8]

1: Nimuendajú E-5 (1941-1942) 1952
SQ20 Tucuna SQ20

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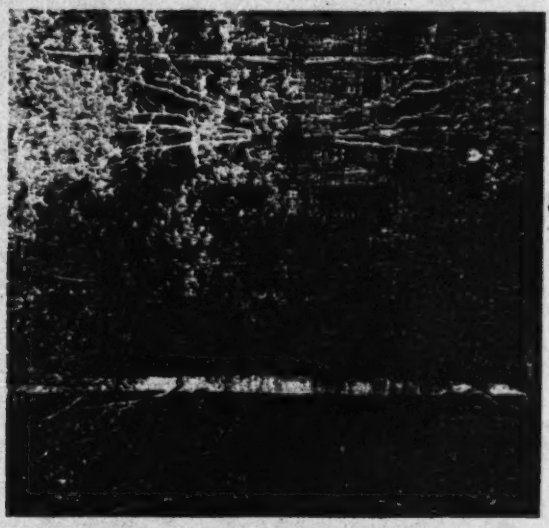

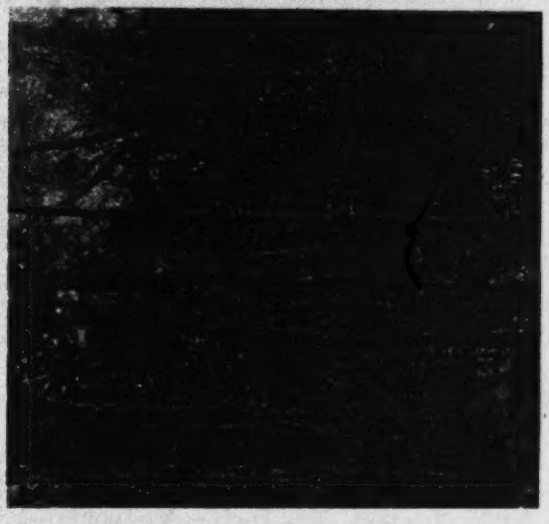

IGAPÓ IN THE TUKUNA HABITAT

[P.171]

4: Marcoy T-5 (ca. 1865) 1875 SQ20 Tucuna SQ20

Next morning, at daybreak, I sallied forth to examine the banks of the Caballo-Cocha. Amongst the beautiful vegetation I found two varieties of croton, a *Caroliuea* with sulphur-yellow flowers, and that species of cinnamon-laurel which, on account of the citron-like scent of the leaves and the cinnamon odour of the bark, has obtained in Brazil the name of *canelon*. At this early hour the living creatures which inhabited the waters of the lake crowded to the surface to salute the dawn of light; the young fry leaped joyfully. The *surubis* opened their valve-like mouths, the *manus* exhibited their glistening rose-coloured scales, the dolphins threw water up from their snouts, the lamantins snorted loudly, and the caymans, hidden in the moist vegetation, yawned amorously at the sun, or snapped together their formidable jaws in honour of that luminary.

After sounding the lake and finding that its black waters had a depth of three fathoms, with a bottom, here of clean sand and there of mud, I returned to the mission to take leave of my host. I found him at the door of his house. The reflection which comes with night had favourably influenced the humour of this individual. He almost smiled whilst announcing that breakfast would soon be ready. I thanked him for this forethought, but announced my immediate departure.

"You will not leave without breakfast!" exclaimed he.

"I shall leave without breakfast," I answered.

The astonishment which this announcement caused him was more than a sufficient revenge for the petty annoyance he had caused me, so I added, in order to lessen the shock which my determination seemed to give:

"I have to make my way along the river, and shall not breakfast before reaching Loreto."

On fetching my mosquito-curtain from the room in which I had slept I found two little Ticuna girls in the posture of suppliants. An unhappy shout of laughter which they had been unable to repress during prayers had drawn upon them the punishment of kneeling and gazing, for twelve hours, at the corner of the wall. At the time I entered, the bigger of the two, wearied with counting the bits of straw in the plaster-wall, had closed her eyes, and, squatting down on her heels, slept peacefully. I obtained a pardon for these little girls, who flew from the room with a cry of joy like birds set at liberty.

At the mouth of the channel which connects the lake of Caballo-Cocha with the Amazon my boatmen crossed the river diagonally, in order to reach the village of Loreto, about twelve miles distant. We arrived there about eleven o'clock.

Loreto is the last Peruvian possession which the traveller finds in the eastern part of the river. It has existed thirty-three years. The land on which it is situated, half-ochre half-clay, presents a series of little rounded, juxtaposed elevations, lying in a direction from the south-east to the north-west, and resembling the swellings which are thrown up by active volcanoes. On these little hills, intersected by ravines, are situated sixteen thatched huts, sufficiently detached to prevent the inhabitants from conversing together, even at the top of their voices.

This mournful place, Peruvian by right but Brazilian in point of fact, is inhabited